

# City of Austin

## Invasive Plant Species Management Plan For City Managed Property

### Board Briefing



## Main Messages:

- Invasives are a problem because they interfere with native biodiversity, recreational value, property values, ecosystem functions and aesthetics
- Council passed a resolution to address this problem in 2010
- Resolution led to an interdepartmental workgroup and a contract with the LBJWC (preparing a report with recommendations)
- Completion of the report is expected in September 2011
- This briefing is an update on the status of this effort



## Why do we care:

- Productivity, value, and management of land and water resources
- Significant economic, social, and ecological impacts
- Well-organized and funded prevention programs



Roadside population of *R. rugosum* 'rosettes' before over-seeding treatment. November 2000.



Same plot 7 months later: *G. pulchella* flowers (red/orange) versus *R. rugosum* (purple stems). High seed rate. June 2001.

## Details to Date:

### 4/8/2010: COA Resolution

- City-wide plan
- Annual costs of control; Include volunteer efforts
- Education and public awareness
- Interdepartmental Working Group
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Integrated Pest Management programs
- Sustainable funding sources



## Details to Date:

6/3/2010: Memorandum (CUIR #304)

- **Interdepartmental Working Group Established**
- **Invasive Plant Removal Projects (WPD, AWU, PARD, AE, PDR)**
- **Scope of Plan**
- **Hire a Consultant**
- **WPD Funding**

## Details to Date:

### 8/19/10: Interlocal agreement ( LBJ Wildflower Center)

- Creation of stakeholder groups
- Facilitation of stakeholder process
- Development of the Plan

### 10/2010: Executive Committee Formed

- WPD, AWU, PARD, AE, PDR

## Details to Date:

### 11/2010: Executive Committee

- 2 Meetings
- Stakeholder Organizations, Timelines, Draft Plan Outline

### 2/2011-5/2011: Working Group

- 6 Meetings
- Consensus Decision-making
- Executive Committee, Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Parks Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin Invasive Species Coalition



## Details to Date:

### 3/31/2011: House Bill 338: House Passed

#### ➤ **DISCLAIMER REQUIRED**

- “This plant list is only a recommendation and has no legal effect in the State of Texas. It is lawful to sell, distribute, import, or possess a plant on this list unless the Texas Department of Agriculture labels the plant as noxious or invasive on the department’s plant list.”

### 4/2011: Invitation of “Advisory Group”

#### ➤ **PROPOSED**

- AISD, Austin Neighborhood Council, Texas Water Resource Institute, Hill Country Conservancy, LCRA, Native Plant Society of Texas, TDA, TXDOT, Texas Forest Service, Texas invasive Plant and Pest Council, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, UT-Austin

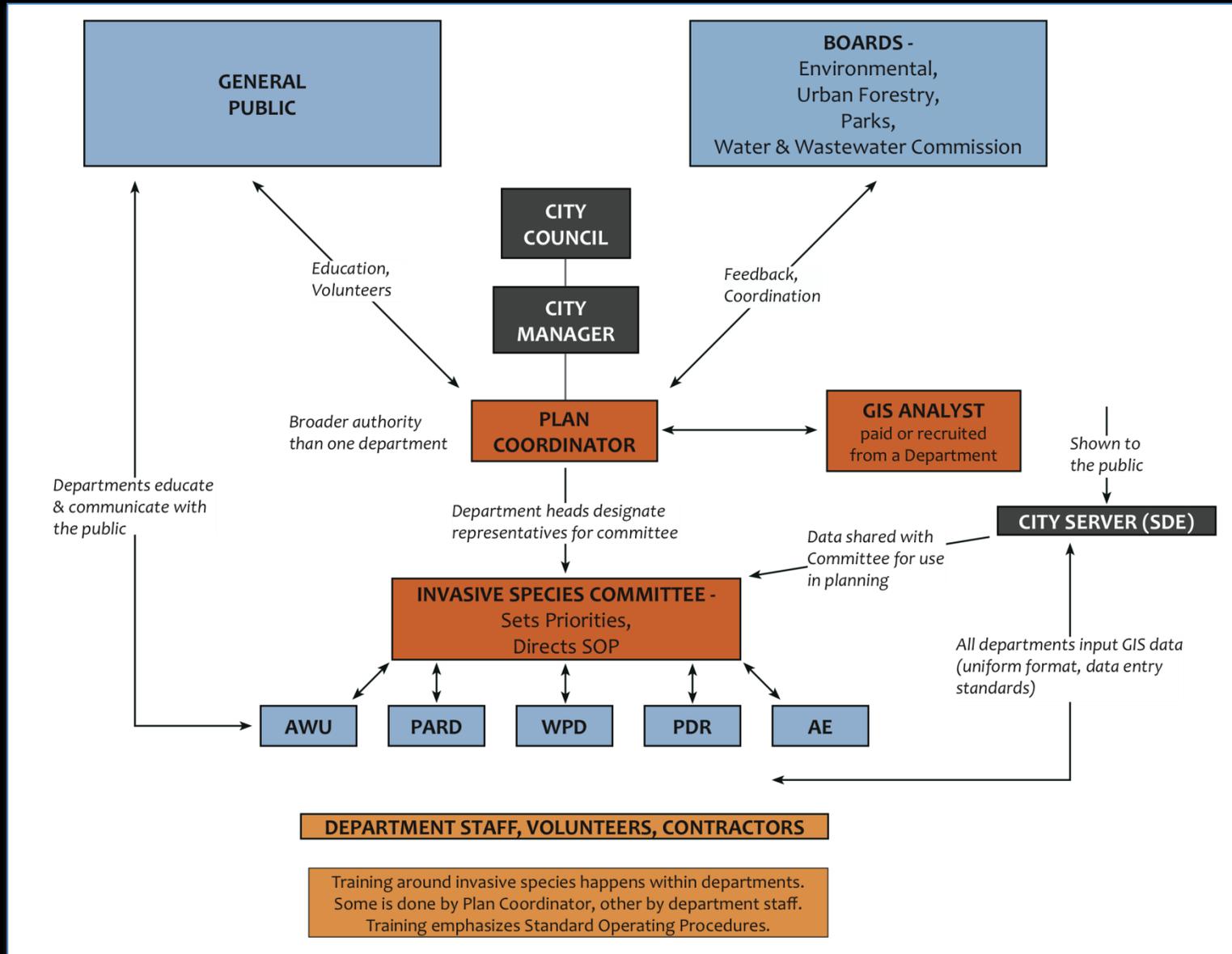
## Details to Date:

### 4/6/2011: 5 Year Goals

- **Centralized Action Database, GIS Viewer**
- **Determine Species Distribution (Baseline Data)**
- **Department Implementation % of Total Acreage**
- **Employee Training and Evaluation on SOP**
- **Codify Plan in Code (CIP & Public Projects)**
- **Discontinue Use of Known Invasive Species**
- **Establish Public Attitude towards Invasive Species**

# Details to Date:

## 4/11/2011: Plan Coordination and Management



## Current Status:

### 5/2011: Development of Draft

- Introduction (Definition, Development Process)
- Existing City Programs (Importance of Unified Plan)
- Regional Programs (Impact, Areas of Overlap)
- Integrated Pest Management Process (Goals)
- Costs and Funding Sources
- Conclusions, Citations, Appendices

## Future Progress:

### 5/2011-8/2011: Plan Review

- Working Group, 6 Meetings
- Advisory Group, Written Feedback
- General Public, Submits Feedback on City Website

### 9/2011: Consensus on Revised Plan

- Areas of Non-Consensus decided by Executive Committee

### 9/2011: Final Plan Submitted (Approval)

- City Council



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